



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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WENDY L. WATANABE
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November 27, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – JUNIOR BLIND
OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED - JUNIOR BLIND OF AMERICA
GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Junior Blind of America Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Junior Blind of America, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Junior Blind of America Group Home is a 40-bed facility, which provides care for girls and boys ages 6-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Junior Blind of America Group Home was providing services for fourteen DCFS children, three Alameda County children, two Sacramento County children, two San Bernardino County children, one Butte County child, one Kern County child, one Orange County child, one San Diego County child, one Modesto County child, one Riverside County child, one Tri-Counties child and eleven privately placed children.

Junior Blind of America Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child

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safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address a few deficient areas.

Junior Blind of America Group Home needs to include all members of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans. The Group Home also needs to provide children with the minimum weekly allowance and encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining life books/photo albums.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

JTM:DC:CC:bg

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Miki Jordan, Executive Director, Junior Blind of America Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Junior Blind of America Group Home
Los Angeles, California 90043
License Number: 191800260
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Junior Blind of America Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Four

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current. However, all members of the treatment team are not included in the development or implementation of the NSPs. The NSPs are comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

1. Junior Blind of America management include all members of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Four

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Four

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Four

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send

and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Four

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. However, children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

2. Junior Blind of America management:

- a. Provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**
- b. Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**



November 2, 2007

Candace Rhue
Group Home Audit Supervisor
Department of Auditor-Controller
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple St., Room 515-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Corrective Action Plan
License #191800260

Dear Ms. Rhue

Enclosed you will find Junior Blind of America's correct of Action Plan (CAP) subsequent to Belinda Gibson audit report recommendations dated on October 31, 2007.

If you have any questions regarding the CAP, please contact me at (323) 295-4555 ext. 466.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernesto Vasquez", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ernesto Vasquez
Director of Residential Services

Share our vision

Junior Blind of America
Children's Residential Program License No. 191800260
Corrective Action Plan October 31, 2007

RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTATION	MAINTENANCE	MONITORING
1. To include all members of the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.	Junior Blind of America will ensure inclusion of all members of the treatment team in the development of the Needs of Service plans.	<p>The treatment team will review and develop the Needs and Service Plan IPP within a timely manner.</p> <p>Director of Residential Services and/or Director of Social Services will ensure that assessment is completed within a timely manner.</p> <p>Case Managers will invite Social Worker as part of Treatment team to participate and sign the Needs and Service Plan. At quarterly meeting participants will be asked to sign signature sheet.</p>	<p>Case Managers to complete Needs and Service Plan quarterly after their 30 day review</p> <p>Director of Social Services will review Needs and Service Plan quarterly.</p> <p>Case Managers will ensure to have Social Workers sign the Needs and Service Plan quarterly.</p> <p>Letter will be mailed out to Social Workers for participation of the Needs and Service Plan meeting prior to meeting.</p>
2. Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books	Junior Blind of America will ensure to provide resident in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.	<p>Director of Residential Services, Residential Staff and Junior Blind Case Managers will work with the children in creating their life books.</p> <p>Junior Blind of America Staff will collect pictures taken from various activities, school, outings and special events to put in their life books.</p>	Director of Residential Services will review the photo album/life book in a monthly basis.
3. All Children will be provide with the required minimum weekly allowances	Junior Blind of America will ensure to provide children with their weekly allowances.	Administrator Support Supervisor will complete a ledger to track down children's allowances is given.	Director of Residential Services will review with Administrator Support Supervisor children's ledger on a monthly basis to ensure allowance policies are maintained.